GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:13
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2005
PCOS IN FAR FLUNG RURAL AREAS
Mandal Shri Sanat Kumar

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether PCOs in far-flung rural areas of the country remain out of order due to prolonged faults in telephone lines and instruments;

(b) if so, the number of PCOs that remained out of order for more than three months, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for improving the telephone services in the rural areas of the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) Sir, PCOs generally do not remain out of order for long duration. However, some Village Public Telephones (VPTs) working on Multi Access Radio Relay (MARR) system, Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) system and on long overhead lines have remained out of order for longer duration than normal period for restoration.

(b) PCOs other than VPTs lying faulty for more than three months are Nil. State-wise list of VPTs that are lying faulty for more than three months as on 31.10.2005 is given in the Annexure.

(c) Steps being taken to improve services in the rural areas are as follows:

(i) Replacement of VPTs working on MARR system and long overhead lines by WLL.

(ii) Replacement of faulty Fixed Wireless Terminals (FWTs).

(iii) All exchanges have been converted to digital electronics exchanges.

(iv) Use of Jelly filled cables in the outdoor network in lieu of fault prone paper core cables.

(v) Opening of more telephone exchanges thereby reducing exchange area size.

(vi) Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) with vendors who have supplied WLL equipments.

Annexure

State-wise details of VPTs lying faulty for more than 3 months.

Sl. No.	State	PTs faulty for more than three months as on 31.10.2005
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	12
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1597
3.	Assam	5218
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	282
5.	Bihar	Nil
6.	Chhatisgarh	2741
7	Gujarat including Daman, Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli	72
8.	Goa	Nil
9.	Haryana	Nil
10.	Himachal Pradesh	185
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	1038
12.	Jharkhand	353
13.	Karnataka	525
14.	Kerala	Nil

15.	Madhya Pradesh	6114
16.	Maharashtra	1582
17.	Meghalaya	636
18.	Mizoram	434
19.	Manipur	113
20.	Nagaland	204
21.	Orissa	4209
22.	Punjab including Chandigarh	Nil
23.	Rajasthan	2698
24.	Sikkim	4
25.	Tamil Nadu including Chennai & UT of Pondicherry	2
26.	Tripura	143
27.	Uttar Pradesh(East) & (West)	12476
28.	Uttaranchal	995
29.	West Bengal including Kolkata	5175
TOTAL		46808